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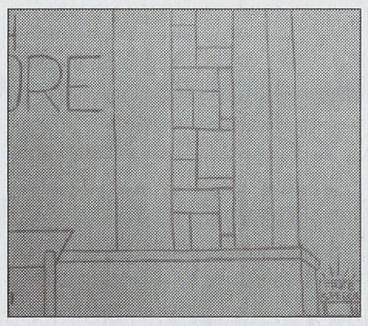

SHOULD VALLEY COLLEGE KEEP ITS FREE SPEECH AREA?

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THE VALLEY STAR PROFILES DIRECTOR OF BASEBALL'S LAST HERO: CLEMETE STORIES

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LADY MONARCHS SOCCER TEAM TIE SECOND CONSECUTIVE GAME.

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lavalleystar.com | October 23, 2013 | Volume 79 Issue 4

VALLEY WELCOMES INTERIM PRESIDENT

Alma Johnson-Hawkins is ready to embrace her new position as Valley's interim president.

JHANELLE RIVERA AND EDWARD RUANO
EDITOR IN CHIEF AND COPY EDITOR

With the experience that comes from an educational background of more than 30 years, Valley College's new interim President Alma Johnson-Hawkins is aware and prepared to face the numerous challenges that come with the responsibilities of her new position.

On Sept. 17, Johnson-Hawkins, former vice president of student services at Pierce College, was named Valley's new interim president by the Board of Trustees after Sue Carleo's retirement last month. Her current assignment is for one year, during which she plans to familiarize herself with the college's staff, mission and goals before creating a strategic plan to balance the school budget and tackle other issues.

"I don't think my purpose is to come in and change Valley College," said Johnson-Hawkins. "I come in acclimating to Valley College, getting to know Valley College, getting to know the faculty, staff and students of the college and familiarizing myself with the goals of the college."

With challenges like limited courses, an inability to provide adequate support services for students and a cumulative deficit of more than $6 million, Johnson-Hawkins is focusing on doing her best as interim president first before applying for the permanent presidential position sometime in June, when the college will begin its hiring process.

"I'm focused on working with the college community through our challenges of the deficit and working with the community in terms of how we can offer the best courses. That's my primary focus," said Johnson-Hawkins. "After that is applying for the full-time position, and that's yet to be seen what it's going to look like."

Born in Natchez, Miss., Johnson-Hawkins knew from an early age that she wanted to be an educator. After leaving the south and moving to California with her family at a young age, she began pursuing her educational career, starting with her first job at Van Nuys Junior High School and then Van Nuys High School. Moving into college education, she continued her career at Los Angeles Mission, West Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, and more recently, Los Angeles Pierce colleges before landing her position at Valley.

"I've served as an administrator for the last 18 years, I think that I've been quite successful as an administrator, and I feel privileged that all of those experiences resulted in my being selected as the interim president at the college," said Johnson-Hawkins. "Now, it's my turn to pay it back, so that when you come in and sit in your classes, you can be sure you're going to get the best quality education."

During her downtime, Johnson-Hawkins enjoys walking around the campus, where she gets to interact with students using a "secret-shopper" approach before identifying herself as the president. She recognizes the importance of keeping students updated and has regular communication with the Associated Student Union President Alexia Johnson in particular, who spreads her message

|See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2|

JAHSAUDI PERKINS, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
NEW PRESIDENT ON CAMPUS - Interim President Alma Johnson-Hawkins walking through the Valley College campus.

PUMPKIN PATCH

JAHSAUDI PERKINS, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
FALL FESTIVITIES - Children chooseing their favorite pumpkins at Ray's Pumpkins in Sherman Oaks this past Sunday in preparation for Halloween.
*See **Gallery**, page 8*

STUDENTS AIM TO RESTORE STATE EDUCATION FUNDING

The Political Action Coalition hosts the "Restoring our Education" event for Valley students.

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

The Political Action Coalition takes action, educating Valley College students on ways to contribute in the restoration of California's education system.

About 150 students congregated in Monarch Hall last Tuesday for "Restoring our Education," an event hosted by the Political Action Coalition, along with the help of student interns from the American Federation of Teachers.

Fred Glass, communications director for the California Federation of Teachers, conducted the event and informed students on the history of our education system and its current status. Students also learned ways to become more involved in the restoration of public education in California.

"The purpose of this event was to empower students," said Alexia Johnson, Valley's student body president. "We are voters. We have the power to spread the word and advocate for legislation that affects us."

Glass brought awareness to the students on many solutions that would bring money back to higher education. One of the solutions he spoke of specifically was Proposition 13 reform.

Proposition 13 is a law that was passed in 1978 which protected homeowners from tax exploitation. This allowed property owners to finally be able to estimate the amount of future property taxes and determine the maximum amount in taxes one could increase as long as they retained ownership of the property. The law also created a loophole for big corporations to seep through.

Corporations like Disney, Westfield, Dell Computers and Brookfield Office Properties, for example, are paying a property tax value set in the 70s, while recent homeowners are paying today's tax market price. Under Proposition 13, the properties are reassessed for tax purposes only when they change ownership.

According to Glass, these corporations are evading this law by setting up deals so that none of their shareholders own a majority.

This allows them a loophole, pretending that no true change of ownership has taken place, consequently enabling them to avoid the property being reassessed at the current rate.

Glass further explained that if these corporations were to pay their fair share in taxes, an estimated $4 million dollars could be accounted toward students' higher education and other necessary resources, possibly restoring our education systems.

"It's crazy how bad our education system is," said broadcasting major James Neal. "It hurts us as students when it should instead benefit us. We as students have got to do more."

Valley students can become more involved by joining the

|See **PROP 13**, Page 2|

DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY SEEKS TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS

Student trustee Michael Griggs is coming to Valley to speak and inspire.

CAMILA TABAR
STAFF WRITER

For this year's Disabilities Awareness Day, students will have the opportunity to receive a bit of motivation from an unexpected leader. Student Trustee Michael Griggs will be speaking about his experience as a disabled member of student government.

"It's rare that we have the opportunity to have a Student Trustee with a disability come in to talk about his perspective in college and his own involvement in Student Government," said David Green, the associate dean of Services for Students with Disabilities. "I think [students] are going to hear a very unique outlook on getting involved."

Speaker Griggs is not just the only student member of LACCD's Board of Trustees, but he also holds the position of Associated Student Organization President at Los Angeles Mission College and has hopes of soon transferring to USC.

With Griggs's long list of accomplishments and extensive experience, this event may prove to be a valuable source for students looking to participate more in campus life.

Patty Cifra, a member of the abilities club, thinks the event will bring much needed recognition for the club.

"The Abilities Club would like to thank [Griggs] for his representation and congratulate him on all his achievements," Cifra said. "It's important to express that this club and the event are needed to spread awareness because [people with disabilities] make up 15 percent of the world's population."

Representatives from Valley's Associated Student Union will also be in attendance and will be open to discussing ASU membership opportunities. Green assured disabled students that his guidance will also be available and is "happy to discuss our school's services with anyone who asks."

The event will be taking place on Oct. 31 from 1 to 2 p.m. in Monarch Hall and is open to the public. Those in need of special accommodations should contact the ASU office at ortizme@lavc.edu or through fax at (818) 778-5715 by Oct. 24.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

across the student body.

"With the support of the students and faculty, she can bring great change," said Johnson. "She is very approachable, and I am looking forward to regular meetings with her."

ASU ELECTS NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSIONER

ASU appoints a new public relations commissioner during executive council meeting.

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

VIKTOREA SILVA | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

MEDIA SAVVY - Emil Kirakosyan is the new public relations commissioner for Valley's Associated Student Union.

Valley College's Associated Student Union unanimously voted and appointed a new public relations commissioner Oct. 15, during their weekly executive council meeting.

With the previous public relations commissioner, Kalie Katz, resigning about a month ago because of family matters, Emil Kirakosyan, currently a student worker in the ASU office, was granted the opportunity to comfortably emerge on the board of commissioners.

"It feels sort of overwhelming," Kirakosyan said of his new position. "But I am confident [to successfully perform the necessary duties] based on my previous experience in media."

The business management major has already acquired a broad, qualifying history in his field. He has experience running a security company, working as a lead cover designer with a nonprofit organization, and creating and maintaining business websites.

Kirakosyan says he is also very familiar with most media, publishing, and editing software, such as products by Adobe Systems, Inc.

Commissioner Kirakosyan's new duties will consist of handling all public matters of ASU. He will assist other commissioners with publicizing any approved events and functions, as well as maintaining the responsibility of overseeing the creation of all event flyers. Kirakosyan will maintain the ASU webpage and brochure.

"The role of ASU's public relations commissioner is very important," said Dominique Mayden, the secretary for ASU. "Because [he] deals with the publicity of ASU and getting out information to the students on what ASU can do for the student body."

When asked about his interest in the position, Kirakosyan told ASU officers that he is now able to use both the skills he has as a student and as a businessman.

He was an easy candidate to choose, and his soon-to-be official fellow ASU family members all voted yes for his designation.

"I will keep students informed and more involved using media websites," Kirakosyan said in reference to one of his goals as the new public relations commissioner. "Lots of students don't have a clue as to what ASU does here. I have to get voices heard."

The next council meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 24.

PROP 13

Continued from page 1

Political Action Coalition on campus. They meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in room 220 of the Campus Center. Students can also do their part by self-educating themselves on the present politics and staying in tune with all legislation issues that students are affected by.

A week of action from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 will allow all UC, CSU, and CC schools to participate in the matter. The Day of Action for Valley will be on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 2 p.m. at the Northridge Fashion Center—which is actually owned by Brookfield. The culmination of the weeklong action will be Friday, Nov. 1, and will take place in Downtown Los Angeles at either Brookfield or Westfield properties.

For more information, students can contact the Student Services Center or call (818) 947-2701.

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MAYOR RECEIVES HIGH MARKS FOR FIRST 100 DAYS

Eric Garcetti's mayoralty begins with a warm reception, despite a hands-off approach.

JORDAN UTLEY-THOMSON
STAFF WRITER

Just more than 80 years ago, former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt undertook an ambitious first 100 days with his New Deal that has since formed a template for all government executives upon their swearing in.

Polls show that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has received high marks three months into the job, albeit without major influence over legislation.

"[These are] early days for Garcetti, so it's hard to gauge his achievement," said political science instructor Anthony O'Regan. "His tone and style has been that of . . . a technocratic liberal—one who embraces the political liberalism and diversity of the city and seeks to achieve policy solutions based upon data and extensive study."

A survey conducted with 501 registered voters by the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles marked Garcetti's approval rating at 56 percent. The same survey, however, noted that voters are still getting to know the new mayor, while a third of voters said that they are uncertain of their opinion.

Garcetti's approach to governing Los Angeles is more similar to Calvin Coolidge than Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This is a divergence from the city's former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, whose personality included a hands-on approach. The former mayor began his mayoralty with numerous travels to Washington, D.C. seeking funds for a promised Westside subway. In contrast, Garcetti remains local, beginning his term focusing on more than 30 departments that power Los Angeles.

However, the mayor is aware about a longing from the electorate for grander policy action. On day 102, Garcetti issued an executive directive known as the Great Streets Initiative; a plan meant to increase economic activity, boost mobility, encourage environmental friendliness and strengthen communities by coordinating street projects efficiently.

With the Great Streets Initiative, officials from eight city agencies will seek out streets that require improvements. Some of these improvements include sidewalk repairs, frequent police patrols, new medians and more bus stops. The only thing that remains unclear is what the budget will be in an era of chronic cuts.

"I remain cautiously optimistic about [Garcetti's] effectiveness and leadership," said English instructor Rod Moore. "I'm always very wary of our local [politicians] and their intimate relations with big developers and big campaign contributors, but Garcetti has shown some good sense so far."

ZAIN'S BRAIN

FREE SPEECH AREA PROVES TALK IS CHEAP

The true purpose of the Free Speech Area has nothing to do with speaking freely.

ZAIN ABOURAIA

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the freedom of speech to every American. So one has to ask, why does Valley College limit its students to a designated free-speech area?

It's a safe bet that Valley students could give you the first name of each Kardashian sister but not name all their rights guaranteed by the Constitution. However, 99 percent of people would get the first one right: freedom of speech.

Valley limits its students' freedom of speech to a small concrete area in front of the bookstore just 23 paces wide.

It is important to note that no one is restricting students' freedom of speech or expression. Administrative Secretary to the Vice President of Student Services Francie Hurwit said outlining a designated area is an issue of "student safety." Although, reading over the official literature it seems to be a means of controlling what some would call an annoying element on campus: solicitors.

You know, those people who shove petitions in your face and demand two minutes of your time for their chosen cause, religion or promotion is.

However, if limiting off-campus solicitors also limits students' freedoms, then it is too high a price to pay. We cannot choose to whom the First Amendment applies. The National Enquirer and New York Times are guaranteed the same protection of their freedoms—even if the bulk of the Enquirer's coverage involves conspiracy theories, the Kardashians and Bat Boy.

The term "free speech area" is a bit of a misnomer because there are so many restrictions on what can be said or done in the area. According to official the LACC Board of Trustees Free Speech Area Policy, the college president has the authority to designate an area for free speech and how long one can use it. Those interested in using it must request a permit through Student Services, commit to a scheduled time and sign a form agreeing to the rules.

These rules state that those using the area must censor the content of their speech and assure it "is not obscene, libelous, or slanderous according to current legal standards." However, what qualifies as obscene is not defined.

While the college's goal to weed out solicitors is well intentioned, the execution does more harm than good. Freedom of speech is a legal term that includes freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the rights to peaceful assembly and to petition the government for a redress of your grievances.

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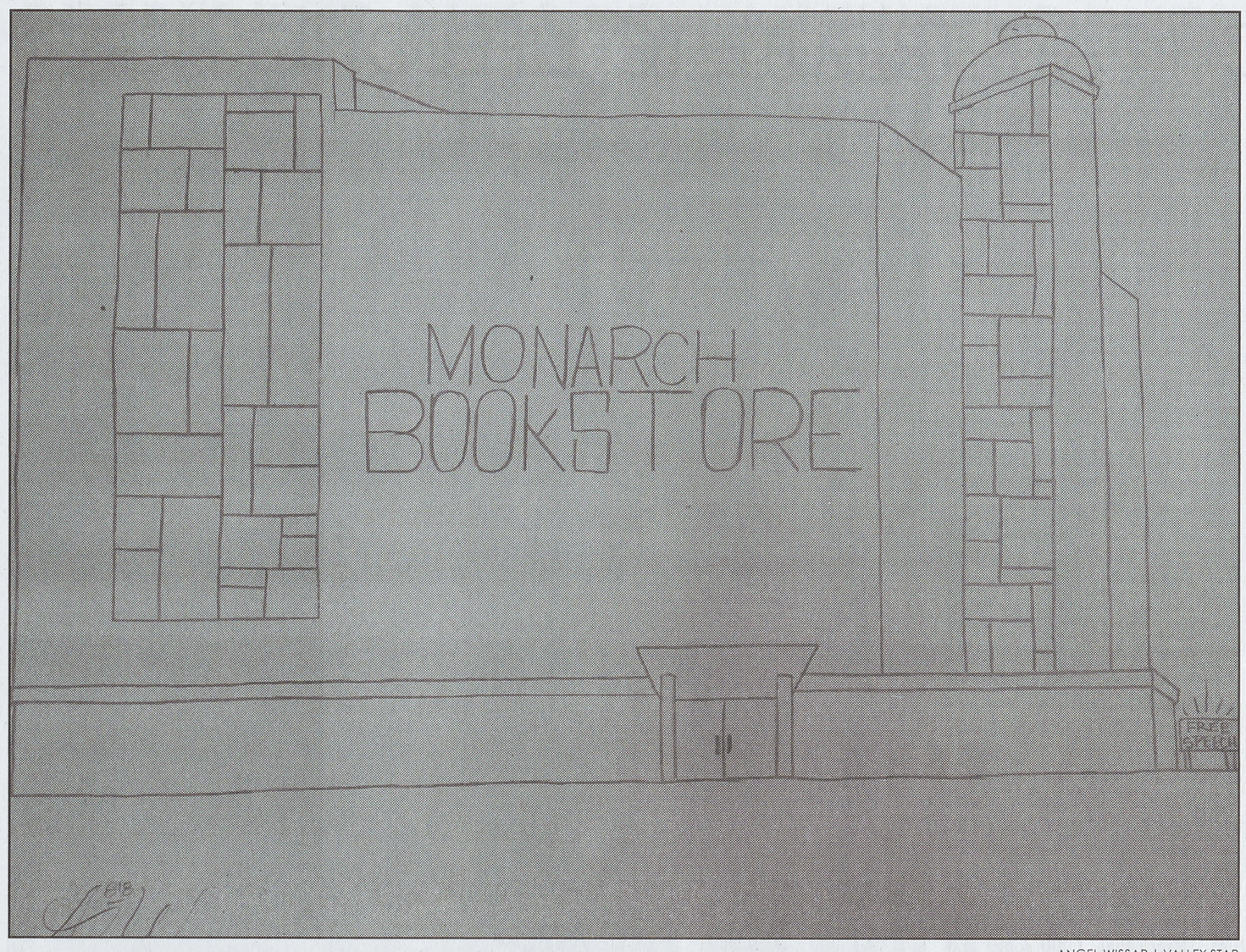


ANGEL WISSAR | VALLEY STAR

AN EVENING OF TERROR AWAITS AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS' HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS THIS FALL

Southern California's most popular Halloween event continues to dish out fear and frights with new mazes.

EDWARD RUANO
COPY EDITOR

Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights gets bigger, better and bloodier each year. Yet with only six different mazes to scream in and hordes of bloodthirsty visitors all looking for frights, the park will probably need six more to appease their thirst for the ultimate scare. It has become a victim of it's on success.

After recent years, when Horror Nights became a Halloween phenomenon and leader in blood, guts and monsters in Southern California, the question in everyone's mind of "did it beat last year?" was finally answered last month — it did.

For 21 nights from September to November, Universal Studios Hollywood is transformed into one of the most blood curling, nightmare inducing Halloween experiences. Filled with grotesque walk through attractions, intense, spine tingling scare zones, and hundreds of terrorizing, roaming scare actors, it is more than enough to leave even the most macho guests looking over their shoulders in paranoia.

This year, Horror Nights delivered with five brand new mazes: AMC's The Walking Dead: No Safe Haven, Evil Dead: Book of the Dead, Insidious: Into the Further, Black Sabbath: 13 3D and El Cucuy: The Boogeyman. Returning this year is also a revamped Universal Monsters Remix: Resurrection, and an all-new Terror Tram: Invaded by AMC's The Walking Dead.

The quality over quantity formula Universal Studios has adopted for its Halloween Horror Nights' mazes and attractions has served well, with more victims coming back every year — and the formula is only getting more perfected. Although it has been an annual event for over two decades, Horror Nights show no signs of slowing down, growing old or getting repetitive.

The mazes are horrifying and disgusting, and the mood dressing is top-notch; from the frighteningly realistic sounds of chainsaws to the bloody carcasses dangling from ceilings. Horror Nights is an event that must not be missed, especially by Halloween fans and adrenaline junkies.

JAHSAUDI PERKINS, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

REIGN OF TERROR - The character Henry from the film "The Purge" sizes up potential victims.

LEAVE THE FOUR-YEAR DEGREES TO UNIVERSITIES

It is not the California Community College system's role to offer four year degrees.

JORDAN UTLEY-TOHMSON
STAFF WRITER

The California community college system may offer bachelor's degrees in the future, thus forever changing the role of two-year institutions. This would eliminate that annoying transfer process, and upper-division classes would be offered at a community college price tag. Students could have their cake and eat it.

Except, there is no such thing as a free lunch. First off, where is the money, Lebowski? Valley College was in the red last year, and many other community colleges share the same budget problems. The surplus created in part by Proposition 30 is nice, but with Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to bailout California's broken prison system with taxpayer money meant for education, who knows how long that will last.

Second, the additional accreditation requirements will be a problem. San Francisco City College cannot even finance themselves properly as a two-year college, which has put them on the path to losing accreditation by July 2014. On a milder note, colleges such as Valley and Mission have been issued mere warnings, but are these signs that these institutions are capable of offering anything beyond an associate's degree?

Third, this completely goes against the California Master Plan for Higher Education. The plan set up a coherent system built on a hierarchy that defines the proper roles for the University of California, the California State University and the California Community Colleges systems. One of its underlying principles is to assign separate goals to each system in order to promote excellence in different areas and reduce waste on duplicate efforts.

Giving California community colleges the ability to grant bachelor's degrees will turn the system into a jack-of-all trades, master of none. This will also waste money on responsibilities that can be done far more efficiently at universities.

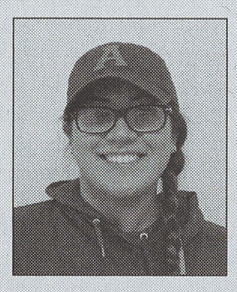
The very suggestion feels like some bad practical joke, but it is unfortunately not, nor is it surprising. This kind of mission creep has happened before when the CSUs lobbied for the ability to grant doctoral degrees in education. In 2005, they got their wish. Not that this was enough: in 2010, they were granted the authority to offer doctorates in nursing and physical therapy.

Once again, the people in charge of California's education have shown that they did not take a single basic economics or accounting course in college. Had they done this, they would be aware of cost-benefit analysis: something that community colleges with bachelor's degrees clearly violates.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFERING FOUR-YEAR DEGREES?

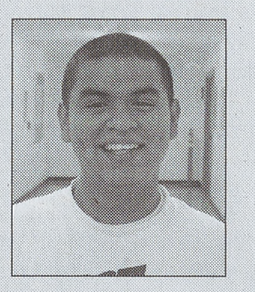
"I feel cheated, I could have completed my degree without worrying about paying for CSUN."

- JOHN ALVAREZ
ART



"I don't feel they should, community college is the filter to see if you want to pursue a university degree."

- VALERIE CAMPOS
BUSINESS



"It's useful and cheaper, it's a safe choice I think.."

-JESSIE RIVERA
BUSINESS

"It's not a bad idea, but it prevents you from learning a lesson in responsibility."

- MILANA DESMUKE
UNDECIDED

"I think that will be a great oppertunity for people to start a life and feel like they belong in this world.."

-PORNPATCHAYA SUPANNARAT
MEDIA ARTS MAJOR

PHOTOS BY JAHSAUDI PERKINS, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: **editor@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

MONARCH PAYS TRIBUTE TO LIFELONG HERO

A Valley College student has written and directed a film about legendary baseball player Roberto Clemente.

PATRICIA RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

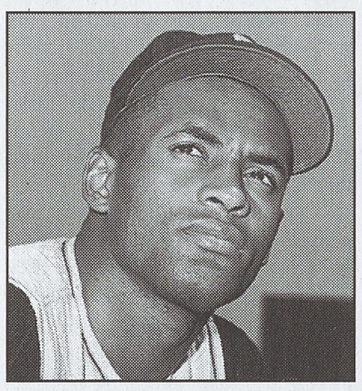
As a young boy growing up in Pittsburgh, Richard Rossi would skip school and sneak into Forbes Field to watch baseball legend Roberto Clemente.

"After Clemente died, I cried for days and days," Rossi said. "He was my hero as a boy."

Now, at 50 years old, Valley College student and theater arts major Rossi still admires Clemente, not only for the amazing baseball player he was, but also for his humanitarianism.

Rossi wrote and directed "Baseball's Last Hero: 21 Clemente Stories" for his film class. This was his way of paying tribute to his favorite baseball player.

The movie came together with the help of several Valley students who not only acted in the film, but also helped with the crew work.



ROBERTO CLEMENTE | MYBLACKHISTORY.NET

"I looked into classes at Valley," explained Rossi. "I took Survey of Silent Films with Daccurso. I felt like a kid at Christmas."

With an associate's degree in theater arts, Rossi is now working toward earning another associate's degree in film.

Rossi is grateful for Valley because he did not have much of a college experience when he was younger. He feels a sense of community and enjoys that his fellow students and instructors all share their own experiences in the performing arts.

Rossi has always been a part of the performing arts world—not just the film aspect of it. He has his hands in all of the performing arts fields.

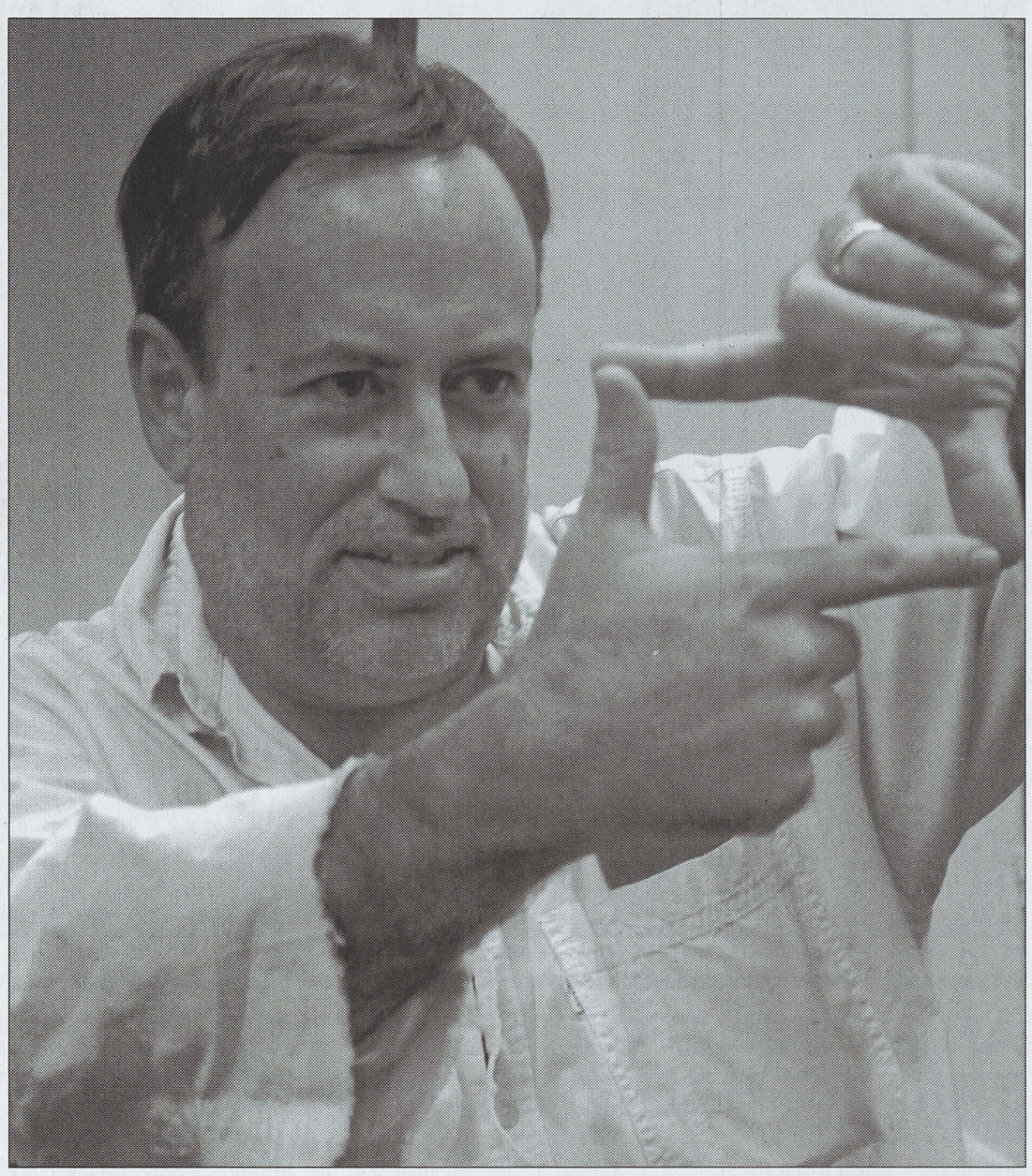
Rossi dove into the theater arts even though his fundamentalist religious background was not approving of movies or the industry.

As stated in the director's IMDb profile, Rossi has been performing since he was 7 years old. He began as a musician playing in a band with his parents and four younger siblings.

As a guitarist, Rossi has composed more than 1,000 songs and also teaches a class at Valley called Learn to Play Guitar Overnight.

As a Valley student, Rossi has performed in a number of school plays, but he is more interested in the behind-the-scenes aspect of the film industry.

"I like to direct so I could create and control the world," said Rossi about his career as a director.



JAY GILLILAND | SPECAIL TO THE STAR

BEHIND THE SCENES - Writer and director Richard Rossi, a Valley College student, poses in Valley's film department.

ALWAYS OUT FRONT···

VETS FEEL SHUTDOWN'S RIPPLE EFFECTS

The lack of access to some benefits during the shutdown has caused lasting frustration for vets.

LEILANI PELTZ

With the reopening of the government last week, it would seem everything may return to as it was before the closure. Closing the government affected many federal workers and programs—and hit military veterans especially hard.

Access to commissaries and disability benefits were suspended during the shutdown, leaving many vets struggling to maintain their livelihood and whether the adverse effects continue to linger.

Even after leaving active duty, many veterans maintain access to commissaries, but during part of the shutdown, the commissaries were closed.

Commissaries, the military's grocery store, stayed open the first day of the shutdown to sell and get rid of disposable food before closing indefinitely on Oct. 2. The stores remained closed for almost a week because no workers would be available to keep them running during the shutdown. This forced families who relied on the products bought from there to find other places to shop, and those who are located in remote areas had to drive over an hour away just to do their shopping.

One of the benefits the commissaries offer is the items sold are tax-free and often cheaper than the products sold in civilian stores. A gallon of milk, for example, which can cost upwards of $4 per gallon at a supermarket is $2.99 or less at the commissary.

With the 7.5 percent sales tax in California, a grocery bill can quickly add up, as not all food is tax exempt.

Another concern caused by the government closure involved medical benefits being postponed. All new VA claims for disability were delayed by the shutdown after 7,800 VA employees were left furloughed without pay, hindering the progress that had been made with processing medical claims in a timely manner. In an article from The Washington Post, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki said that the VA was not well prepared for a government shutdown and did not believe that Congress would permit such a thing to happen.

"A shutdown of government does not occur often, and we had no good plans in place," Shinseki said. "That didn't become obvious to us until late September."

The Washington Post also wrote the VA ceased paying overtime for claims processors Oct. 1, [and] the backlog of disability and pensions claims increased by about 200 [as of Oct.9] and now stands at approximately 418,700.

Whether or not the 15-day shutdown will impact benefits in November still remains to be seen. Here's hoping that the VA employees will be able to make up for the weeks lost during the shutdown, especially with the loss of overtime.

Leilani Peltz is an Army veteran of four plus years and pursuing her journalism major at Valley. She is currently stationed out of Long Beach with the 250th MI Bn Guard unit and hoping to pin on E5 soon.

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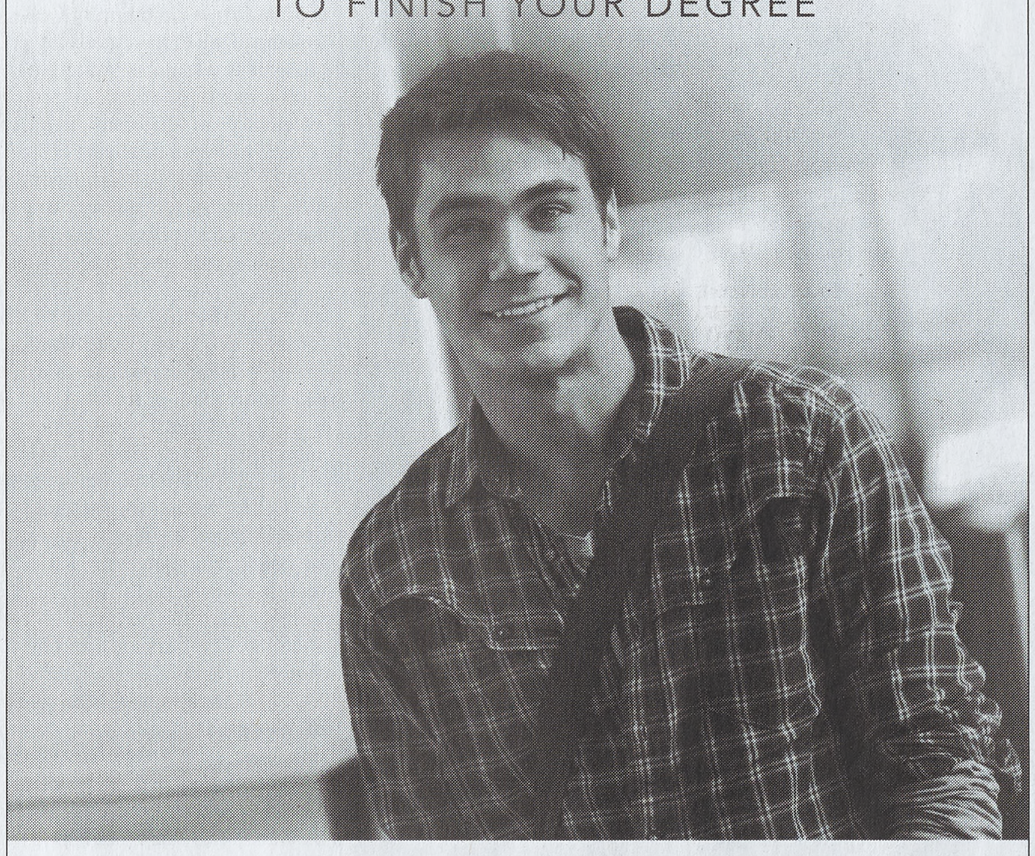
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STUDENTS SAY BONJOUR TO CITY OF LIGHT FOR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Valley College makes France a reality for students during summer 2014.

EDWARD RUANO AND JORDAN UTLEY-THOMSON
STAFF WRITERS

The European Studies Association grants Valley College students an opportunity to enrich their education and cultural awareness this summer during their 2014 Summer in Paris program.

For an entire month, students who enroll in the study abroad program will be treated to the innards of France's city of light. Activities include a visit to the Chateaux of the Loire Valley, an evening at the Garnier Opera House, an excursion to the Palace of Fontainebleau and more.

"Just to be in a place that's so much different from the U.S.; everything about it is completely different," said undecided major Julie Chang. "Being around people who think differently [is] exciting."

The program leader is Valley's own French instructor, Dominique Merrill. Both a native French speaker and born in Versailles, instructor Merrill has taught the language for more than 40 years. This will be her ninth year as Valley's program leader to France.

"I'll tell you what my favor thing is: seeing the absolute wonder in the faces of my students when they see the Eiffel Tower . . . or are just enjoying walking in the streets for the first time," said Merrill. "Their enthusiasm is so contagious that it never ceases to make me happy . . . I don't get tired of it, because I see it through their eyes for the first time."

The program's base price is $3,250; which includes French civilization and survival French courses, as well as the option to live with either a family or in a twin dormitory. A meal plan is also included. Academic credit from 6 to 8 units can be earned.

For an extra fee of $4,200, there is the option to take expanded French language courses at the Institut Catholique de Paris along with the civilization class and the meal plan, family or dormitory combination. Group airfares are $1,595, and a single dorm room supplement is $450. All price options include a transit pass with unlimited use.

Valley is just one of many colleges to partake in the study abroad program. San Jose State University, San Diego State University, CSU San Bernardino, City College of San Francisco, Los Angeles City College and East Los Angeles College are going together to form the European Studies Association.

The ESA stresses applicants to apply early, as space is limited. The program can include about 100 students. Applications will be accepted as early as Nov. 1 and must be mailed to the ESA at 424 Dorado Terrace, San Fransisco, CA 94112. A two percent early payment reduction is available to students that pay all fees by March 1.

For more information, attend one of the informational meetings in Foreign Language 102. Two more are scheduled for the remainder of this year on Nov. 16 and Dec. 14 respectively. The meeting time is noon to 2 p.m. Three more meetings for 2014 are TBA.

"I think [the culture] will open [students] minds up to the world around them, because people who have never been around the world... don't know that cultures are different," said nursing major Hector Bocanegra. "The world gets a little bigger when you travel."

NEW BSU PRESIDENT AIMS TO UNIFY STUDENTS

The incoming BSU president is determined to bring diversity to membership.

MATTHEW ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

ROSHON BONNER| SPECIAL TO THE STAR
FRESH OUTLOOK - BSU President Danielle Marshay Lee vows to make the club more multi-cultural, encouraging students from all backgrounds to join.

Before the current school year, the Black Student Union existed at Valley College as a quiet entity of black unity and awareness. But new president Danielle Marshay Lee is not interested in continuing that trend.

The new BSU president's ambitions are not going unnoticed, according to club advisor and long-time African-American history professor Dr. Keidra Morris.

"She seems to be very passionate," said Morris. "She's very organized, she has a lot of good ideas that she's trying to bring to the table and she seems to be on top of everything."

Besides being the president of BSU, Lee is an aspiring actress. She attended Cleveland School of the Arts, a school that specializes in her craft, before coming to California to further pursue her career, so she is no stranger to using her ambition and passion to go after something she wants.

Lee encourages every student, no matter their color or culture, to join the BSU. One of the elements of the club that Lee tries to convey is that this club is not just for black students; it is for everyone.

"I really want to bring in everybody," said Lee. "I want to make the club a great club and be one of the most active clubs on campus."

There are many benefits to the club, such as understanding African-American culture, unity amongst members, meeting people, club events, fundraisers, food and more. With Valley being a commuter school, meaning that most of the student population is primarily interested in going to school then going home rather than lingering on campus, Lee knows what she is up against but still wants to make the club highly visible within the campus.

One of the key actions of the club is the monthly discussions. Oct. 1, for instance, the club has had a discussion on Interracial Relationships. Future discussion topics will include the use of the "N" word, the pressures and stereotypes of black women in today's society, and the club also plans to organize open-mic nights and more.

Even with her busy schedule in and outside of school, Lee's prime objective for the BSU is to bring people together and reverse negative outlooks on black people.

ANNE FRANK EXHIBIT PROMOTES TOLERANCE

Anne Frank's story is brought to life at the Museum of Tolerance.

LEILANI PELTZ
NEWS EDITOR

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance presents a different approach to portraying its new exhibition, "Anne," and provides an interactive experience for visitors.

The exhibition previews with artifacts and replicas from kids during the course of the war and is appropriately titled "Remember the Children." The displays contain art from Theresienstadt, a ghetto where thousands of Czech Jewish children died; religious objects, including a Children's Passover Haggadah—an illustrated book depicting the Jewish story of the redemption from slavery in Egypt—from before the Holocaust and from ghettos and concentration camps.

Heading into the entrance, an overwhelming silence and chill seems to flood the passageway, despite the city mural reflected in the mirrors and the bright yellow on the walls. It is as though the exhibition itself is coming to life and bringing the emotions of the past to the present.

Quotes from Frank's diary are found scattered throughout the exhibition, documenting her thoughts during the war and while in hiding—many of them her longing wishes as a young teenager.

"I haven't had much chance to get suntanned because we are not allowed in the swimming bath. That's a great shame, but there's nothing I can do about it," Frank wrote in her diary.

Downstairs, a makeshift wall that runs along the length of the exhibition is covered with clothing and represents the millions of people who died during the Holocaust. The wall of clothes begins as a mix of colors and gradually fades into grays and blues toward the end of the exhibition.

While clutching a wooden Star of David necklace that a young boy gave her, Elisabeth Mann, who has been speaking at the museum for over three decades about her experience as a Holocaust survivor, looks solemnly at the photos of Frank and her family.

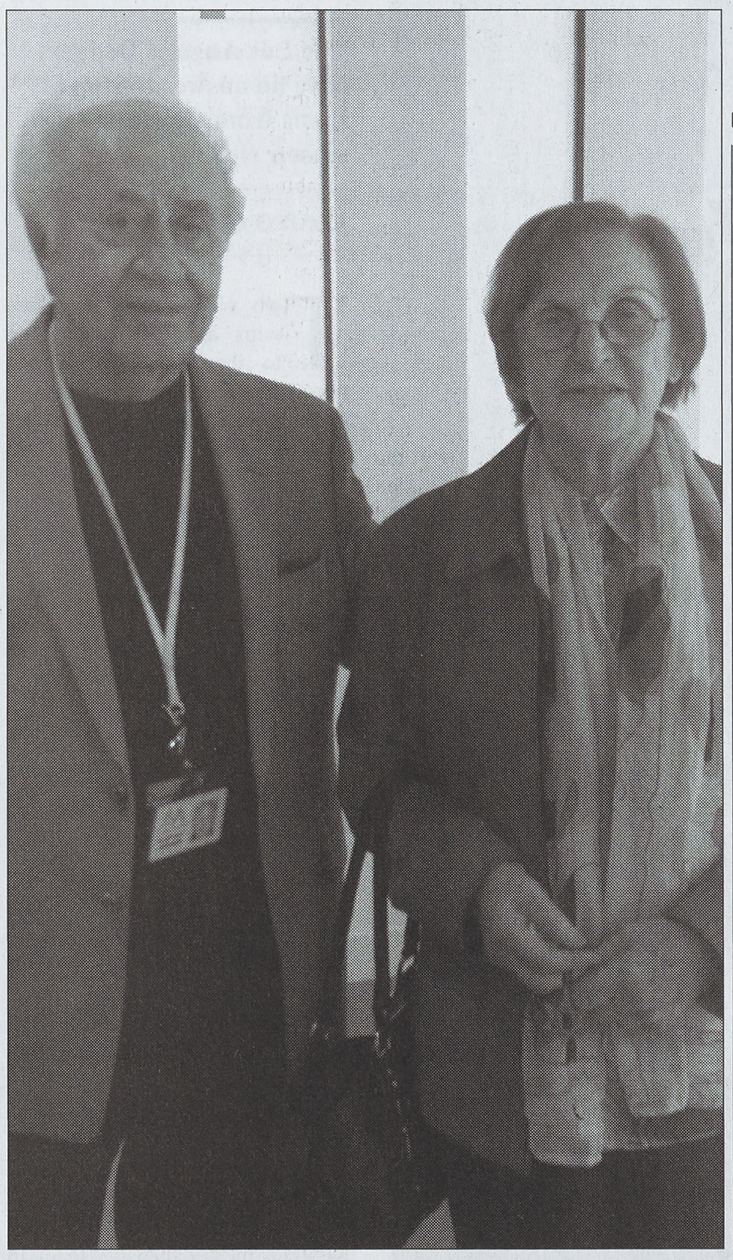
Unlike many exhibitions about World War II and the Holocaust, "Anne" features touch screens for people to interact with Anne Frank's story and submit their thoughts and feelings. A screen poses the question, "How do you feel after your experience here today?"

One of the trademark items in the exhibition is the movable bookshelf which leads into a small, round room to watch a 10-minute film documenting what life was like for the Franks and Pels and, according to the LA Times, is narrated by Oscar-nominated actress Hailee Steinfeld. The bookshelf is a replica of the entrance to the Secret Annex where Frank and her family hid during the war.

Holocaust survivors speak about their own experiences during World War II to museum visitors. The presentations are powerful and moving, whether they are heard once or multiple times. Many stay after the speeches to express their gratitude, shake hands with the survivors and take pictures with them. Bill Harvey, one of the speakers at the museum and a survivor, was 19 years old when he and his family went through the Holocaust. His mother had left Europe to move to New York decades before World War II and returned later on.

"It's amazing," Harvey said about the exhibition, "that I lived it, too, but in a different way."

The cost for "Anne" is $12.50 for students and is not included with general admission. The hours are Sunday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. with early closure on Friday at 3:30 p.m. from November to March. The museum is closed Saturdays.



LEILANI PELTZ, NEWS EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
LIVING REMINDER - Holocaust survivors Bill Harvey and Elisabeth Mann spoke at the Museum of Tolerance's "Anne" exhibit this past Sunday.

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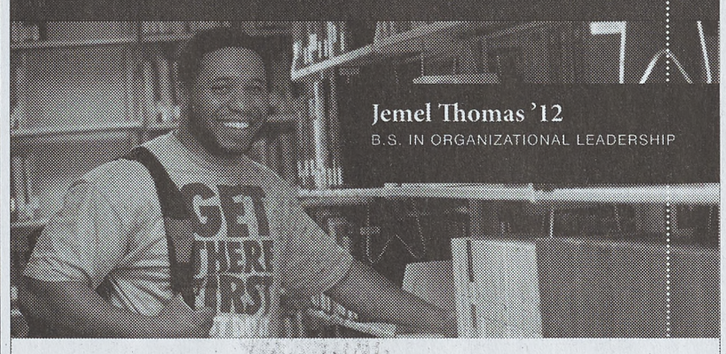

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THE MOVIES

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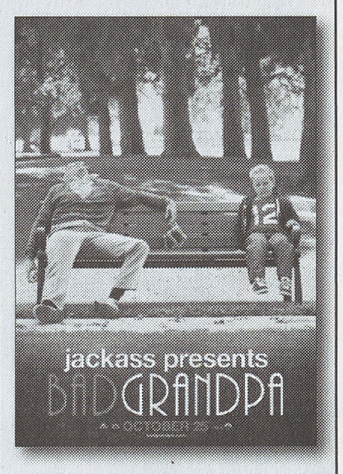

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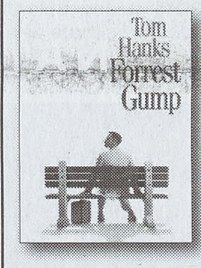

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- MILEY CYRUS- WRECKING BALL
- KATY PERRY- ROAR
- AVICII- WAKE ME UP
- DRAKE- HOLD ON, WE'RE GOING HOME

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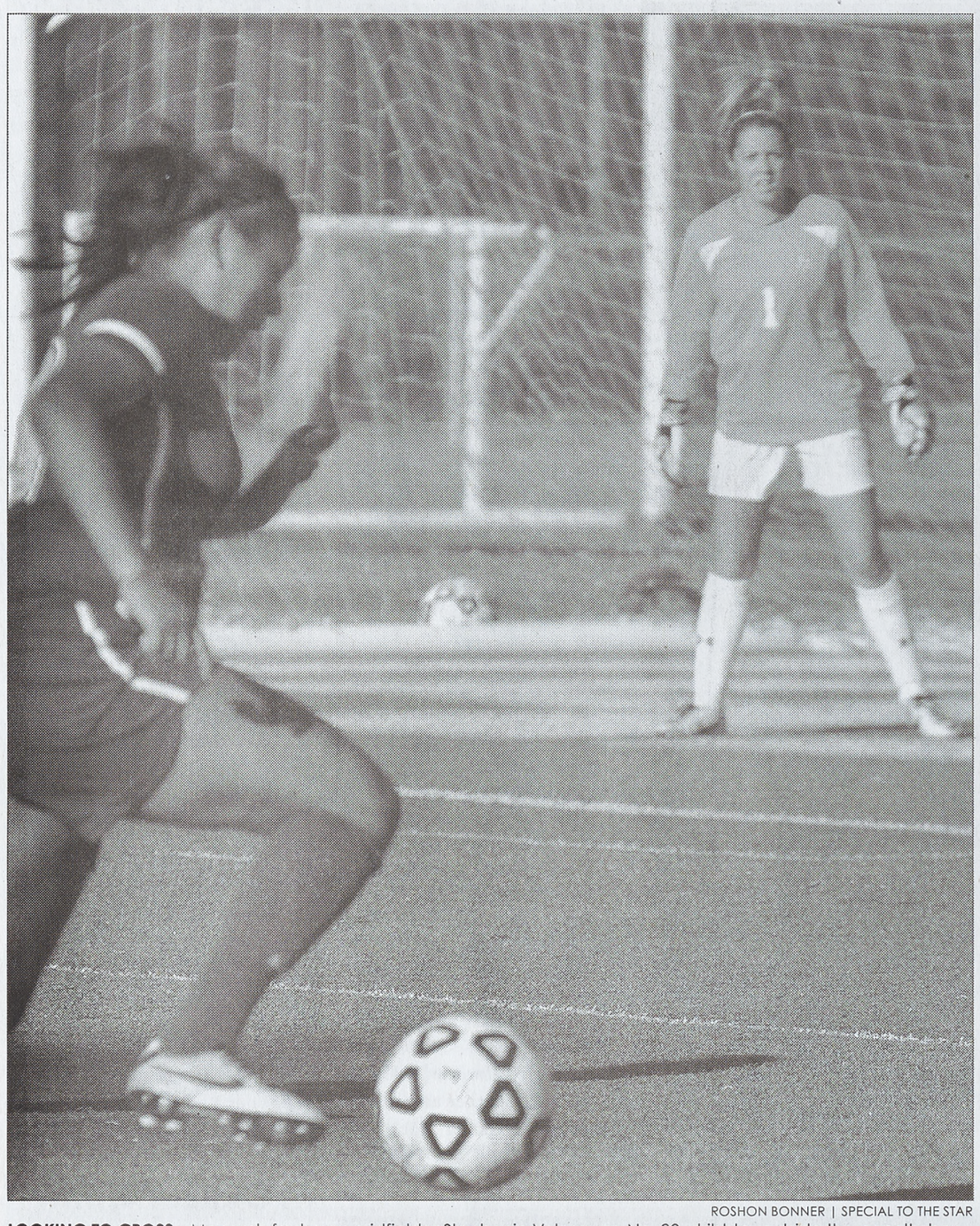
- KANYE WEST & KENDRICK LAMAR: OCT. 26 STAPLES CENTER
- SLAYER: OCT. 27 HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
- THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: OCT. 31 WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL
- DEFTONES: NOV. 1 GREEK THEATRE
- ESCAPE: NOV. 1-3 MONROE FORUM THEATRE

LADY MONARCHS HANG ON FOR TIE AGAINST RENEGADES



ROSHON BONNER | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

LOOKING TO CROSS - Monarch freshman midfielder Stephanie Velasquez, No. 20, dribbles outside the penalty box looking for an open teammate with a scoring opportunity.

The Lady Monarchs' soccer team earns its second consecutive tie.

JORGE BELON AND NIMA GHAFOORZADEH
STAFF WRITERS

On a hot Friday afternoon at Monarch Stadium, the Lady Monarchs played to a 2-2 draw against the Renegades from Bakersfield College.

Entering the second half, the score was 2-1 in favor of Valley College. Bakersfield took advantage of the Lady Monarchs' slow start after the break.

"We have 17 players on this roster, but only 14 could play today because of injuries," said soccer coach Greg Venger. "With only two field player subs available on the bench, it was hard for the team to get any rest, but our team showed mental toughness in achieving this draw."

The lone goal of the second half was a very confusing corner kick. It appeared as though a Bakersfield player knocked down Monarch goalkeeper Athena Del Rosario, which led to an open net resulting in the tying goal for the Renegades.

Del Rosario played sharper in the second half, making four saves and ended the game with nine. She only allowed one early goal in the first 10 minutes of the second half and held the Renegades scoreless for the remainder of the contest.

"She [Del Rosario] is boss, I love her!" said freshmen midfielder/forward Charlene Parrales. "She saved us back there many times; she definitely is a big impact on this team."

Valley took the lead early in the first half by scoring within the first five minutes of the game.

Freshmen midfielder Stephanie Velasquez received a pass in the left-hand side of the penalty box. She took one quick touch on the ball and then, with pure finesse, shot the ball to the bottom right hand corner of the net, making the score 1-0.

A few minutes later, Bakersfield tied the game from an error by the Monarch defense in their penalty box.

Midfielder Danielle Vidal would easily cut through the Valley defense in the left side of the penalty box, creating enough space to take a low, hard-driven accurate shot.

Del Rosario made the save, but Bakersfield forward Reshana Watson was wide open at the front of the goal due to a blown defensive assignment from Valley. Watson tapped in the tying goal, making the score 1-1.

"Man marking is something we could improve," Parrales said.

Sophomore Monarchs forward Jessica Perez scored a volley goal from distance that went flying into the top right-hand corner of the net, giving the Renegades goalie no chance of saving the shot.

"I told Becky [Rebecca Lujan] to pass me the ball," Perez said. "Without thinking, I flicked the ball in the air and shot it."

Perez's goal closed out the first half on a high note for the Monarchs, but the lack of substitutes would eventually take its toll as the game ended 2-2.

Coach Venger said, "We played good enough to win the game, but we just did not create enough chances in the match."

The Lady Monarchs' next home game is Tuesday at 4 p.m.

ROSHON BONNER | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

HEAD IN THE GAME - Lady Monarchs' No. 8 Savannah Ajar fights for possession of the ball in last Friday's match againt Bakersfield College.

THINK IT THROUGH

DODGERS FAIL TO MAKE FALL CLASSIC

The Los Angeles Dodgers have no answer to stop St. Louis from clinching post-season victory.

ROMEO GONZALEZ

Two wins. They were two wins away from heading to the World Series and two wins away from making Los Angeles baseball relevant again. That is closer than any Dodger team has gotten in the past 25 years.

It was last Friday at Busch Stadium in St. Louis when the Cardinals gave the Dodgers more to feel blue about after an embarrassing 9-0 defeat in game 6 of the National League Championship Series.

It's been four years since the Dodgers made a post-season appearance. At least this time they won more than just one game and got close enough to have fans in Los Angeles talking about baseball in October.

This is the closest the team has gotten in a quarter century, but yet it still seemed so far.

"I always hate when a season ends," General Manager Ned Colletti said to the Los Angeles Times. "But this one, I really hate that it ended the way it ended."

This was a season that had a rough start. A team that had 30 wins in 72 games ended the year with the most expensive team in baseball history coming close to living up to their expectations: winning the World Series.

Instead, our boys in blue were left sitting in the losing dugout where they stared at the Cardinals as they flew away to the fall classic.

Clayton Kershaw was not the player we all expected to see last Friday. Yasiel Puig's inexperience was clearly shown by his performance, and the Dodgers veteran sluggers were shut down by rookie pitcher Michael Wacha.

This was the biggest start of Kershaw's career, and he failed to seize moment as he fell to pieces on the mound. The Dodgers' ace pitcher gave up seven runs in four innings, forcing manager Don Mattingly to pull him from the the game.

"I didn't have it tonight, this one's on me," Kershaw said to the L.A Times. "Just to know the guys have worked so hard to get here, I wanted to be part of the solution. I just didn't pitch good. Man, I don't have an answer."

Let's not forget, the Dodgers hitters only managed two hits against Wacha. A line up that looks good on paper did just that, looked good on paper.

We all imagined there would be a game seven that came down to the last inning after the Dodgers came back from a 2-0 deficit and then again when they brought the series closer at 3-2 in favor of St. Louis

Yes. There is always next spring for a team that returns most of its core players, including a healthy Matt Kemp and Hanley Ramirez, whose broken rib might have been the deciding factor in this series, not to mention, baseball's best pitcher, Kershaw, who will have to recover from the worst game of his career.

It's been 25 years. Twenty-five years since the Dodgers brought the Commissioner's Trophy to L.A., so hey, what's one more season?

E-mail Romeo Gonzalez at *sports@lavalleystar.com*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

PIERCE SADDLES MONARCHS FOR THIRD-STRAIGHT LOSS

Valley College loses the Victory Bell match against Pierce for a third-consecutive year.

MATTHEW ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

The visiting Pierce Brahmas handled their business on both sides of the ball Saturday in their 42-9 shellacking of the Monarchs. With the loss, the Monarchs dropped to 3-3 overall, and are now in a three-way tie for sixth place in the Pacific League.

Head coach Larry Kerr quickly got to the point in his assessment of this game and how Valley will move forward. "They [Pierce] owned the line on both sides," he said. "We are not going to feel sorry for ourselves. That doesn't do you any good. You take 24 hours after this game, you let it hurt a little bit and then you move on to the next game."

Four weeks ago the 3-0 Monarchs had dreams of securing their first league title in more than a decade, as well as earning their first bowl berth since rapper Tupac Shakur was alive (1995).

But receiver Lawrence Oliver put it best as to why many of the Monarchs goals for the season have been dashed, "We're injury prone." Injuries have crippled the seasons of nearly a dozen Monarch players including quarterback Patrick Tyler.

Furthermore, the Monarchs are in the midst of a three game losing streak and are merely playing for pride. But key players like receiver Darion Hackett refuses to give up on the season. "We're going to come back strong next week for sure," he said. "We're not gonna close out the season bad. We are not the type of team to just give up."

ROSHON BONNER| SPECIAL TO THE STAR
EYES DOWN FIELD - Monarchs quarterback Emilio Rodriquez, No. 15, looks for an open reciever in last Saturday's game against the Pierce Brahmas.

On offense, the Monarchs had trouble moving the ball or scoring points, while the Brahmas (482 yards total offense) didn't take their foot off the gas pedal offensively until the last 40 seconds of the game.

Valley only mustered 126 yards total offense on 58 plays (2.1 yards per play). Plus the offense only crossed the 50-yard line in three out of twelve possessions, with two of those possessions being aided by fumble recoveries by defensive backs Al Thornton (recovered at Pierce's 25 yard line) and Hank White (returned recovery to Pierce's 33).

Running back Calvin Howard (92 yards rushing) and quarterback Nick Arbuckle (236 yards total offense) were the biggest thorns in Valley's side on defense. Those two had a hand in five scores before Valley even scored its first points, which came courtesy of an errant snap past punter Daniel Schlorf then out of the end zone that made the score 42-2 with ten minutes left in the game.

Valley took advantage of that safety as quarterback Emilio Rodriguez (13 of 26 for 61 yards, 1 touchdown pass and 1 interception) on 4th and 11 from the Brahmas' 14, heaved a pass to receiver Spencer Elrod who secured the pass then dragged the necessary one leg in bounds to give him his sixth touchdown catch of the season. That completed the scoring at 42-9 with 7:22 left in the game.

Next Saturday, the Monarchs travel to Santa Monica College for a 1 p.m. kickoff.

MONARCH SCHEDULES

Football:

Saturday, Oct. 26
@ Santa Monica 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2
@ Glendale 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 9
vs. West L.A
@ Valley 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 16
vs. Southwest
@ Valley 6 p.m.

Cross Country:

Friday, Oct.25
WSC Finals
@SMC 3 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 8
So. Cal Finals
@ Santa Clarita
Fresno 11 p.m.

Fri-Sat, Nov. 22-23
State Finals
@ Fresno 10 a.m.

Men's Water Polo:

Wednesday, Oct. 23
vs. Citrus
@ Valley 3 p.m.

Thurdsay, Oct. 24
vs. Americsn River
@ Valley 3 p.m.

MONARCHS CORNERBACK NAMED DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Valley College football player Jeremi Ross is recognized by Pacific conference.

JORGE BELON
STAFF WRITER

No. 4 on the Valley College football team is cornerback Jeremi Ross. He may not be a who says much on the field, but he can easily be spotted sporting a golden faux-hawk.

"He is a person that leads by example," said head coach Larry Kerr. "He keeps to himself, but he works hard in practice and the rest of the team respects him."

Ross is a Hollywood High Sheik prospect who never envisioned his life revolving around a game.

The former Sheik grew up in a home for troubled youth. But it was there that he received motivation from a friend who encouraged him to try out for the school team his sophomore year in high school.

"When I was 15 years old, a friend who lived at my home went to high school with me," said Ross. "He told me to try out for the football team at Hollywood High, and so I did."

Ross made the team as a cornerback, but he could only stay on the team if he would improve his grades.

"Before I started to play football, I was straight 'F' student in high school," said Ross. "I had never even thought of going to college."

Ross, who once didn't even give college a thought, now is hopeful of going to play for a Division 1 school and—if possible—the NFL.

"Universities like Colorado, Utah State and Troy are interested in him," said Kerr.

"Those are a few of the schools that come to mind."

Ross' work ethic on the field has been noticed not only by the Monarch coaching staff, but also by the Pacific Conference this season.

In Valley's loss against the San Bernardino Vaqueros, he was named the Pacific Conference Defensive Player of the Week.

The former Shiek received the award due to his performance against Santa Barbara Sept. 28. Ross accumulated eight tackles, seven assist tackles, two pass deflections, one interception, one caused fumble, and returning a blocked field goal for 50 yards.

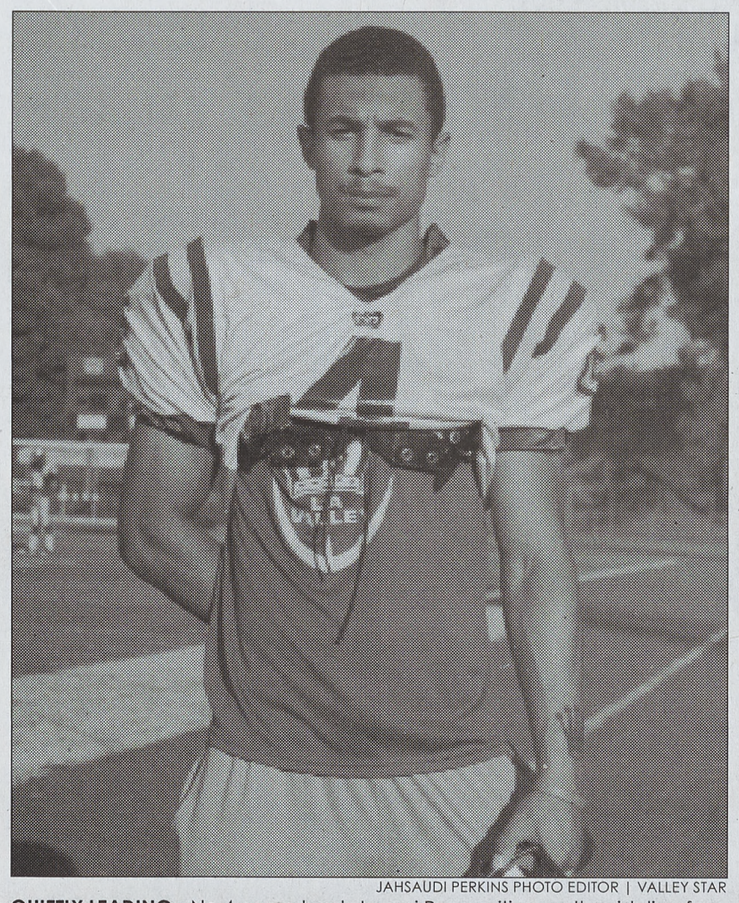
"Jeremi's performance was recognized by the conference even with us losing the game, which is not usual," said Kerr.

In four games played this season, Ross has a total of 30 tackles and has broken up seven passes, one interceptions and one forced fumble.

"By the end of the season, I want to finish with 85 tackles and six interceptions," said Ross. "I also want to improve my ability to read the game."

For the NFL hopeful, football will always have a different meaning.

"If it was not for football," said Ross. "I would not be here today."



JAHSAUDI PERKINS PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
QUIETLY LEADING - No.4 cornerback Jeremi Ross waiting on the sideline for Monarchs to begin practice in Monarch stadium.

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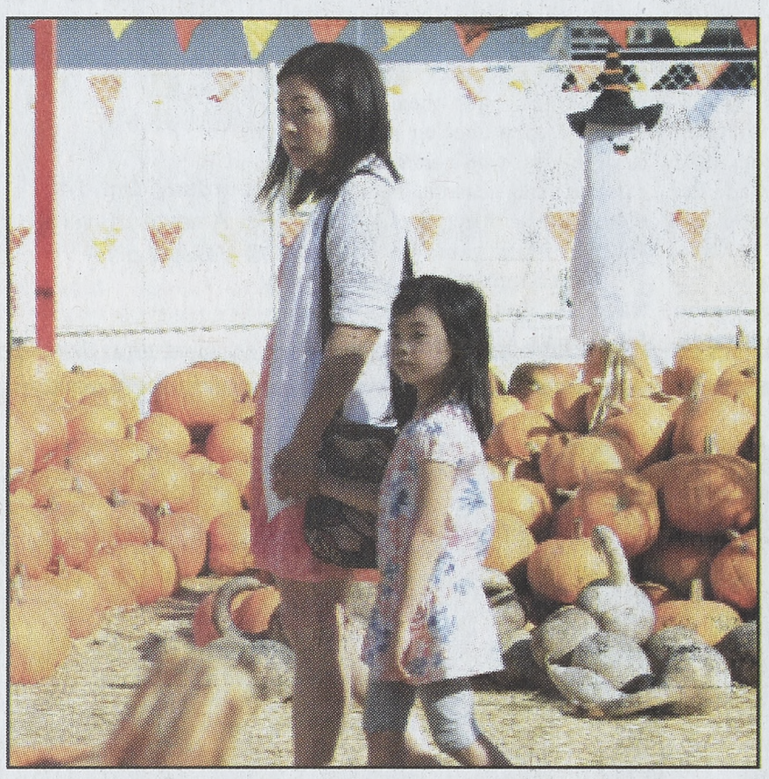
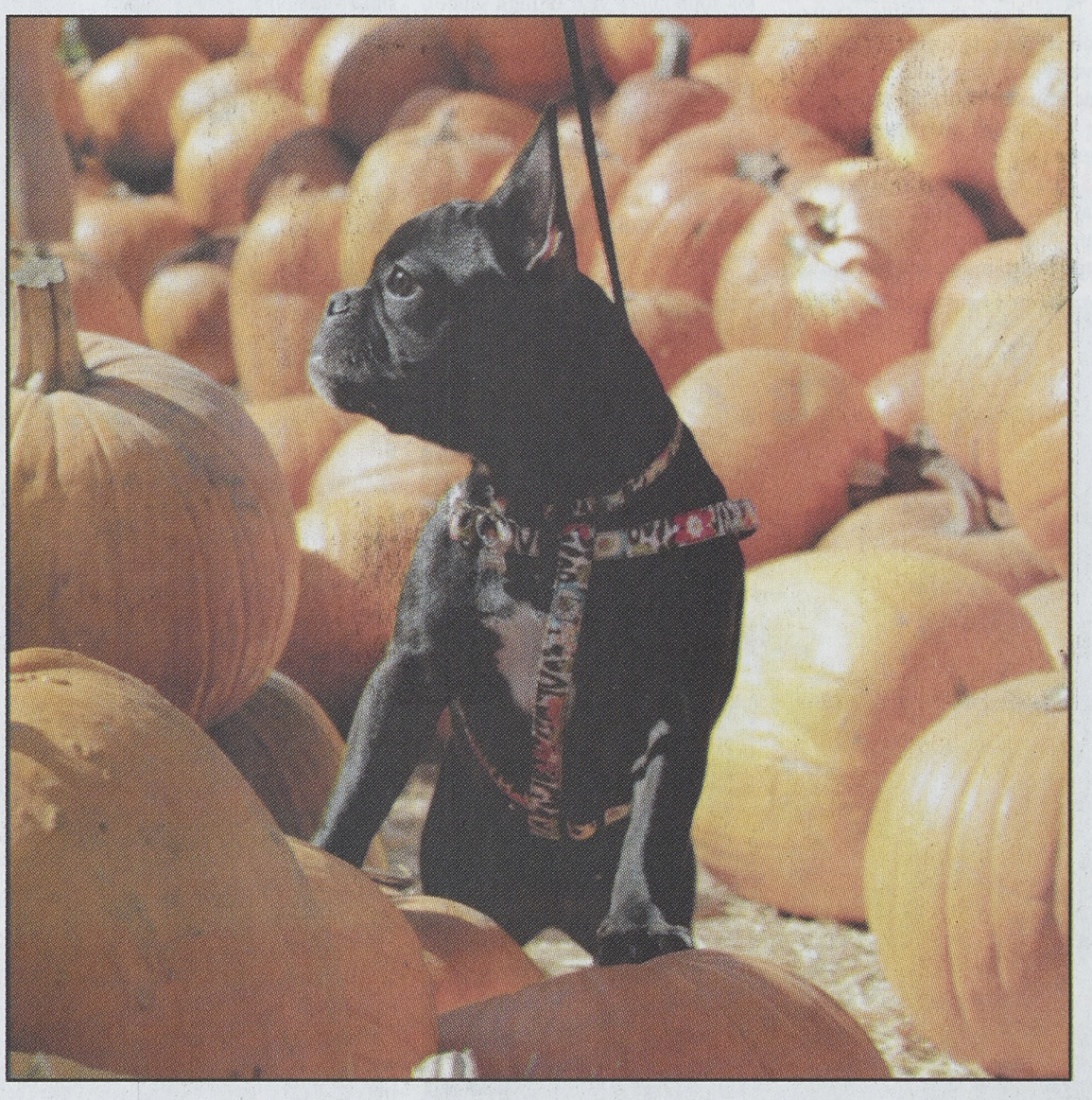
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CELEBRATES THE SEASON OF THE SQUASH

PHOTOS AND LAYOUT BY
JAHSAUDI PERKINS
PHOTO EDITOR

TEXT BY
JHANELLE RIVERA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

More than 5,000 pumpkins were scattered around Ray's Pumpkins this past Sunday in advance of Halloween. Ray and Co. have set up shop at the corner of Hazeltine Avenue and Moorpark Street every fall for more than 15 years. The Sherman Oaks pumpkin patch is not only a neighborhood staple but also achieved immortality as the family business owned by the Pruits on the original "Beverly Hills, 90210" TV series.

The local patch has not only made it easy for families to hunt for the ideal pumpkin, but the proprieters also provide an array of other Halloween merchandise and decorations for the spooky holiday.